

good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire. Wherefore, by their fruits shall ye know them."

I trust we will not again make the mistake of the Second World War and presume that because an individual or his forefathers came from that region or worships our common God in its way, that he is anything other than someone entitled to mutual rights and mutual respect. There will be no mass round-ups based on race, there will be no mass internment camps based on religion. We are not the same people as we were in 1941, and thank God, we are not the same people as those with whom we are at war.

I take some pride, that as a member of the federal judiciary I have taken an oath to do equal justice to all who come before me, and I have great confidence that not only shall we honor that oath, but that the executive branch will equally honor its obligation to protect the rights of those who reside within our nation whatever their race or religion. If restrictions there are, and there will be, if some limitations arise on the freedom from government interference with our ability to travel, and there will be, they will be applied equally. If individual officials make mistakes simply because of someone's color or creed, we will correct those mistakes as quickly as possible and apologize for the error. We will all face the burden together, we shall spread it as fairly as possible, and we shall bear it with quiet determination and good humor, for we are at war.

Make no mistake about it, we are at war. It is a different war than those of the recent past, and we Americans tend to be so forward looking that we confine our vision only to the front, but there is historical precedent for what we are about to do. When our nation was still in its infancy we fought an undeclared war with your neighbors across the Channel, we sent our young navy to the Mediterranean to battle the corsairs of Barbary, and over the years we have chased bandits and pirates beyond our borders whenever our national interest required it. Often, and for many decades, we shared that job with the Royal Navy.

I cannot, in this English language, say anything about this endeavor upon which we now embark in any way better than my hero who led your fight for civilization in the last world war. Let me quote from two speeches by Mr. Churchill: "There shall be no halting or half measures, there shall be no compromise or parley. These gangs of bandits have sought to darken the light of the world; have sought to stand between the common people and their inheritance. They shall themselves be cast into the pit of death and shame, and only when the earth has been cleansed and purged of their crimes and villainy shall we turn from the task they have forced upon us, a task which we were reluctant to undertake, but which we shall now most faithfully and punctiliously discharge."

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"We do not war primarily with races as such. Tyranny is our foe, whatever trappings or disguise it wears, whatever language it speaks, be it external or internal, we must forever be on our guard, ever mobilized, ever vigilant, always ready to spring at its throat. In this, we march together."

In this indeed, I know, we shall march together.

ELECTIONS IN BELARUS

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about Belarus and my concerns about the country's recent presidential election.

Belarus has endured tremendous difficulties in its history. For centuries, Belarus has been fought over, occupied and carved up. It has borne heavy

losses, including the loss of over 2 million people, one quarter of its population, during WWII. Today, the Belarusian people continue to suffer devastating consequences from the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster in neighboring Ukraine.

Belarus' declaration of independence in 1991 held great promise for a better future. As it broke from communist rule, it had the opportunity to build a free nation and become part of a peaceful, more secure Europe. The country began to embrace economic and political reforms and democratic principles. It courageously chose to be a nuclear-free state, ratified the START Treaty, acceded to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and became a member of NATO's Partnership for Peace. It established a constitution and held its first Presidential election in 1994.

Unfortunately, the prospect of democratic change in Belarus was quickly halted as its first President, Alexander Lukashenka, adopted increasingly authoritarian policies, including amending the constitution in a flawed referendum to extend his term and broaden his powers. Lukashenka's regime has been marked by a terrible human rights record that is progressively getting worse, with little respect for freedom of expression, assembly and an independent media. A pattern of disturbing disappearances of opposition leaders fails to be seriously investigated by authorities. The living conditions in Belarus are declining and Lukashenka's refusal to institute economic reforms has only exacerbated the situation.

For months, nations throughout the world have been following closely the events leading up to the presidential election which took place on September 9, 2001, with hope that Lukashenka would take the necessary steps to allow the election to be free, fair and transparent. The United States, the European Union and leaders of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, OSCE, had urged Lukashenka to uphold his commitments to democratic principles as an OSCE member state and adhere to international election standards. Lukashenka was encouraged to seize this opportunity to signal to his European neighbors and the rest of the world that he is ready to change his heavy handed policies which have isolated his government and earned him a reputation as the lone remaining dictator in Europe.

Unfortunately, this election process demonstrated that Lukashenka is still unwilling to acknowledge the will of the Belarusian people. Much like last year's parliamentary elections, this election was marred by reports of intimidation, harassment and fraud. The OSCE concluded that it failed to meet internationally recognized democratic election standards.

Leading up to the election the opposition was denied fair and equal access to state-controlled media coverage, the independent media was harassed, publishing houses were shut down, and

newspapers reporting on the opposition were seized. International observers from the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, ODIHR, were denied entry into the country for several weeks, and some were denied visas altogether, thus hindering efforts to establish a complete and thorough observation mission. Consequently, observation of critical aspects of a free and democratic election were missed, including the formation of election commissions and the candidate registration process. As voters cast their ballots, efforts to conduct a parallel vote-count were thwarted when Belarusian authorities disqualified thousands of domestic election observers. As a result, while most of Belarus' Central and Eastern European neighbors continue to progress toward democracy and integration into a peaceful, more secure Europe, Belarus remains on a path of its own, isolated from much of the world.

The United States must continue to pressure Lukashenka to change his archaic iron fist policies and adopt political reforms that espouse democratic principles such as respect for human rights, support for civil society, and the rule of law. We must continue to urge his regime to institute desperately needed market-oriented economic reforms to promote trade, investment, growth and development in Belarus. We should also engage the Russians in high-level discussions, urging them to raise these issues with their neighbor, to pressure Lukashenka to take the steps he knows are necessary to facilitate normal, productive relations between his country and the international community.

While putting pressure on the Belarusian Government, the U.S. should also continue to support programs that will strengthen civil society and build democracy. The OSCE cited one positive observation about the Presidential election in Belarus: an increasingly pluralistic civil society is emerging and working to build the core institutions neglected by the state. The U.S. should continue to support programs that will build upon this progress within civil society and help restore democracy in Belarus.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

• Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, today I rise in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month. Each year, from September 15 through October 15, we recognize the contributions that Hispanic Americans bring to the United States. During this Hispanic Heritage Month, our Nation is in the process of coming to terms with the unspeakably savage attacks of September 11th and bracing for what may follow. Yet, in the wake of these heinous terrorist acts, we have demonstrated one of our greatest

strengths, the ability to unite in times of crises. A major element of that unity is recognizing and embracing our diversity. This month we do so by showing our respect and appreciation for the rich cultural heritage Hispanic Americans bring to our Nation.

Recent census figures show that there are more than 35 million Hispanic Americans in this country. Their ranks have increased 58 percent through the last decade. Hispanic Americans will soon be the largest minority group in the United States, making up 24 percent of the population by 2050. In my State of Maryland, the number of Hispanics grew more than 82 percent since 1990, making up more than 4 percent of the population statewide. I know that Hispanic Americans will continue to bring great contributions to Maryland's culture and economy.

Like America, the Hispanic culture within our country is diverse. Whether we look to the large Puerto Rican community in New York, the influx of Central Americans to the Washington Metropolitan region, Mexican Americans who have a long history in California, or Cuban Americans who have made South Florida their home, Hispanic American culture reflects the breadth and depth of the cultures of their nations of origin. Hispanic Americans are changing the face of America, challenging our tendency to view the world in terms of black and white and teaching us to accept ethnic diversity as well as racial differences.

I strongly believe that we will live up to the ideals of our Nation's founding only when all Americans have equal access to the building blocks of a strong society, education, employment, health care, housing and political participation. We must make sure that basic services and opportunities are available to Hispanic Americans. And, as this segment of the population grows, it will be increasingly important for educators, hospitals, civil services, and financial institutions to be able to communicate effectively, provide bilingual materials where appropriate, and be aware of cultural differences when delivering services. Hispanic Americans deserve to take full part in their communities and language barriers should not prevent them from doing so.

Throughout our history, different groups have come to this country contributing their culture, values and strengths to make the United States the strong diverse country that it is. The story of immigrants searching for a better life is a story that has been replayed countless times throughout our history, sustaining the growth of America since her beginning. Hispanic Americans continue this tradition and I am proud to have the opportunity to recognize their heritage this month.●

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. HENRY WALL

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the service of Dr. Henry Wall to New Mexican veterans. Dr. Wall recently retired from the Artesia Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic after nearly 50 years of service to meeting the health care needs of Artesia residents.

Dr. Wall graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1953 and moved to Artesia shortly thereafter. Dr. Wall's private practice spanned from 1955 to 1991, and he became well known for his dedication to patient care, as well as for his maternity practice. In fact, many Artesia residents remind him that "You delivered me, my children, and my mom."

In 1989, the Artesia community-based clinic was founded. The clinic was an outgrowth of legislation that I sponsored to establish six satellite veterans outpatient centers. I believed that veterans should have access to quality health care at a convenient location. Dr. Wall also saw this opening as an opportunity to serve the veterans of southeastern New Mexico. He joined the clinic's staff and brought his care and expertise to the many veterans in the local community. Dr. Wall is a veteran himself, having served in the Marine Corps in World War II, and he understood the need to provide our Nation's veterans with superior health care.

I wish to express my gratitude to Dr. Henry Wall for his years of service to Artesia, and to the veteran population, in particular. I have frequently stated that ensuring the health and well-being of the servicemen and women, who have placed their lives in harm's way in order to secure our freedoms, should be a commitment that Americans do not take lightly. I am proud that Dr. Wall has done his part to live up to this commitment. I am sincerely grateful for his service to New Mexico's veterans.●

TRIBUTE TO SISTER MARGARET SMITH

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today, I would like to take the opportunity to pay special tribute to an exceptional person, Sister Margaret Smith of Park Rapids, Minnesota. With great pride, Minnesotans have named Sister Margaret Minnesota's Outstanding Older Worker for this year. This is an honor richly deserved, for Sister Margaret has spent 55 of her 80 years serving in a variety of capacities at the St. Joseph's Area Health Services, in Park Rapids.

The award for Minnesota's Outstanding Older Worker is conferred by Green Thumb, Inc., the Minnesota Department of Economic Security, and the Minnesota Department of Labor.

Sister Margaret is virtually an institution, a pillar at St. Joseph's where she has touched the lives of thousands

of people. With her humor, warmth, feeling for people, and dedication, she has been a support not only for appreciative patients and their families, but also for her coworkers at St. Joseph's. Indeed, one of the affectionate nicknames conferred on her by the medical staff is "The Presence." This is a fitting title, indeed: She was among the seven Sisters of Saint Joseph who arrived in Park Rapids in 1946 to establish a hospital, is always where she is needed, and has never missed a single day of work. Moreover, Sister Margaret is nothing if not versatile. Having become a certified radiology technician in 1945, she has worked in almost every department of the hospital, including the lab and surgery; was once St. Joseph's administrator; and now sits on the Board of Directors.

Although she no longer performs procedures, she keeps the radiology department running smoothly by scheduling patients' appointments; maintaining statistics, information, and activities in superb order; working with physicians to arrange radiology procedures; and supervising the department's peer review. In the hospital at large, she keeps her finger well placed on the pulse of the organization by overseeing quality control. Moreover, Sister Margaret is the hospital historian and photo archivist.

At St. Joseph's, Sister Margaret is called "the rock, the foundation." So loved is she for her steadfastness, lightheartedness, and solid values, that patients of 20 years ago return and ask to see her. At its genesis, the success of St. Joseph's and its founders might not have been predicated. Rather, some in the community opposed a Catholic hospital. Today, sister Margaret says she believes her presence as a Sister of St. Joseph has made a difference. Caring for patients, she believes is sacred. Her philosophy has been to care for the whole person, spiritfully as well as physically.

Sister Margaret was to have visited Washington, D.C., during the week of September 11, in order to attend the National Prime Time Awards Program. Although our Nation's crisis made it impossible for this trip to take place, I would like to add my voice to those who have honored Sister Margaret's constancy of heart and spirit in ministering to so many patients for more than 50 years.●

IN RECOGNITION OF I. MARTIN MERCADO

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Mr. I. Martin Mercado, who will be presented today with the Small Business Administration's Minority Small Business Person of the Year Award. This prestigious award recognizes the vital role that minority-owned small businesses play in creating jobs and providing robust economic development in their communities. Mr. Mercado is the president of